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THE LAND I RULE.

BY JOHN HICKET.

What though Labor's willing vessel
Through the keen or sultry day,
I yet own and rule a kingdom,
Which I visit when I may—
For, though wide in its dimensions,
'Tis not very far away.

Where my realm is situated
No geographer may tell,
And, with sceptical derision,
Its existence would repel—
But it lives and has a being,
Which no reasoning can dispel.

Starting from the lowest level
O'er the Nadir's well-like deeps,
Through the intervening regions
With a mighty bound it leaps
To the most aspiring summit
Of the Zenith's highest steep:

Creeping by the fearful covert
Of the wrathful Lion's Lair,
Sweeping through the stellar circuits
Of the Great and Lesser Bear,
Brushing past the crystal tresses
Of fair Eternity's Hair:

'Cross the blazing path of Sirius,
Whose Titanic mass of flame
Bids the pallid sun we worship
Hide his beams in utter shame,
And the stars, to so brilliant,
Fade off indistinct and tame.

Thence, through trackless wilds of azure,
Where, begirt by circling domes,
The still true but grieving Pleiads
Yet retain their sapphire homes,
Down into the abysmal
Where their tyrant sister roams:

(But of whom, in Fate's dark annals
Of the immemorial Past,
Is an autograph, half-blotted,
As by scorching years o'ercast—
"Here fell"—this is all it telleth
Of that ruin, vague and vast):

Out into the airy depths
Still its length'ning bound'ries go
Where the comets dare not venture
With their faint, nebulous glow,
In the vast eccentric orbits
Where they wander to and fro.

When the slanting sunbeams darken,
And the sunset cannons boom,
And the atmosphere grows heavy
With the coming midnight's gloom,
Then a new-born sun uprising
Does my beautiful land illum.

Though so wide, my realm's so guarded
That it never may be won
By invading Goth or Vandal,
Or intrusive Gaul or Hun,
Though their carred ranks outnumber
Those Attila looked upon.

All within its radiant borders
Is Serenity's abode,
And the life-sick gales come freighted
With a fresh and fragrant load
Stolen from the blushing roves
That they kiss'd upon the road.

Silent lakes half-bide in valleys,
Opal tinted, emerald-lued,
Where the sylvan charms of Tempe,
Or Eden are renewed
In each broad and sunny landscape,
Or umbrageous solitude.

There I ride a fiery courser,
Who, as swift as my desires,
Bears me o'er moor and mountains,
And, with speed that never tires,
Distances the harness'd lightning
That bestrides the swiftest wires.

And the temples round me, greater
Than those Egypt view'd with awe,
Spring up in their grand proportions
By a strange, mysterious law,
Without jolting of a hammer,
Or the rasping of a saw.

Graceful forms assemble round me
That in loveliness excel
All the ideal shapes of beauty
That of old on canvas fell
From the pencil of a Titian
Or the brush of a Rafael.

Though so populous my kingdom
I alone its burdens bear,
Nether counsellor nor statesman
My sole task of empire share,
And my son, though much I love him,
Never may become my heir.

Thus my broad domain I govern,
Which no force nor fraud can take,
Nor e'en hydra-headed faction
From its firm foundations shake—
And, secure, I hold my sceptre,
And thus wield it, till—I wake!

From Our Own Correspondent.

PHILADELPHIA, May 16.

THE CENTENNIAL.

Now that Congress has refused an appropriation for the Centennial, the people of Pennsylvania are determined of themselves to celebrate the event in a national manner, and the Board of Finance has resolved to commence the work without delay. Local jealousies and penny-wise economy managed to bring disaster upon the cause, and yet it is the best thing that could have happened to us.

A spirit of enthusiasm has been roused in our people, and we have resolved to wait no longer for aid from Congress or the States, but to "go ahead" at once, and make the Centennial a success. Next week the work will begin, and we are now in earnest. Let every man, woman and child in our Commonwealth contribute to the cause, and show to our jealous rivals that Pennsylvania can, of herself, celebrate the Centennial in a national manner.

The parasites that have been fattening upon the funds furnished by Philadelphia must now be removed, and our own citizens be appointed in their stead. It is an insult to our people that men are occupying high places and receiving large salaries, who come from States that voted strong against an appropriation by Congress. Let Pennsylvanians now fill the offices, and draw their salaries from the contributions which have been made by our own people.

THE WIRE BRIDGE.

For many years there has been a suspension bridge over the Schuylkill below Fairmount. This was the first structure of the kind in the United States, and it has swung on its cables a much longer time than was allowed to it by its inventor, Colonel Ellett. As this bridge had become unsafe it was necessary to construct another in its place, and a double-decker will be built that will be raised high above the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Workmen are now engaged in removing the cables of the once famous wire bridge, and in a short time this former curiosity will have entirely disappeared. A temporary structure has been substituted, and it will be used until the new bridge is finished. There will be no more wire bridges over the Schuylkill, and the new crossing is to be completed in time for the Centennial.

Fairmount has been very much improved recently, and some of the basins have been cleaned. The work was continued without intermission, as it was necessary to have them in use for the city. Visitors will always find something interesting at the beautiful Fairmount Park, and the works are now in complete order. The machinery is kept clean and bright, and at this season of the year the scenery is charming.

FOREIGN TOURISTS.

About twenty gentlemen from England and Scotland are now visiting the principal cities in this country. They have recently been in Philadelphia, and they were delighted with our Park and public buildings. The Maroon Temple attracted their special attention, and they pronounce it the grandest structure of granite in the world, and they particularly admired its fine proportions.

YEARLY MEETING.

The Hickettes held their yearly meeting this week, and the weather was delightful. No rain fell. Friends had no occasion for umbrellas. This is somewhat unusual.

THE PUBLIC SQUARES.

These lungs of our city are now open, and thousands of persons are taking advantage of a rest in them. Unfortunately they are closed at night, and the walks being made of poor gravel are not pleasant in wet weather. An effort has been made of late years, to have the railing removed, but so far without success.

Public squares are patronized by the little ones, and it is pleasant to see a boy rolling his hoop, or a girl jumping the rope, and all delighted with their amusements. Many a child has no other place for physical development, as the mostly live in courts or alleys that have no yards in which to run about. These squares are properly called "lungs" of the city.

WAR ON DOGS.

Several cases of hydrophobia having occurred here recently, a general war on the poor canines has broken out, and all unmuzzled curs running in the street are shot down by the police. It would be better to have every dog killed than for one human being to be bitten by them, and to have that most awful of all diseases—hydrophobia. Dogs are now at a discount in Philadelphia, and the young ladies who used to take a promenade with a fancy cur by their side, have become alarmed, and the dear pets have been put away. Whenever a young lady showed such marked affection for this creature, it was an evidence that her love had gone to the dogs. Henceforth they must bestow their attention upon some more worthy object, and the change will be of benefit to some of them.

THE GREAT LAUNCH.

Another iron sea monster has just been launched upon the water. The "City of Tokio" was set afloat on Wednesday, and the launch was a brilliant success. The vessel is the second one built by John Roach for the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. and she is intended to trade between San Francisco and China.

The "City of Peking" and the "City of Tokio" are entirely the product of Pennsylvania material and workmanship. They are constructed of Pennsylvania iron, at a Pennsylvania shipyard, built by Pennsylvania mechanics, and sent forth from a Pennsylvania river. Pennsylvania enjoys the proud honor of giving to the world the two largest and staunchest vessels afloat, with only one exception—the Great Eastern. The Delaware river is now called the Clyde of the Western Continent, and at the yards of John Roach & Son can be turned out the best and largest vessels in the world.

FINANCIAL.

The money market shows no change from the condition of ease which has continued for several months. The rates are quoted the same, 4@5 per cent. on call, with a full supply for all demands where the collateral is of an approved character. Discounts are readily obtained on first class mercantile paper at 6 per cent.

Gold has been steady but weak during the week, notwithstanding the heavy shipments to Europe, the market, however, closing firmer in tone at 112½.

The stock market still a somewhat, but the undercurrent was towards greater weakness.

Government bonds were a shade stronger in sympathy with the advance in gold. Trade continues to drag its slow length along in a very unprofitable manner, and we can record no increase in the volume of business. It is very evident now that no substantial revival of trade will take place during the season, now so far advanced. Money continues as cheap and abundant as ever, but there is marked inertia in all circles.

The flour market has been exceedingly dull during the week, there being nearly any export demand, and no disposition of the home trade to purchase except for immediate wants.

Corn is lower. New mixed 84@87 cts. New Penna. yellow 84 cts.

TRULY THINE, BROADBENT.

Gen. Howard has been acquitted, and we believed he would be, after a fair and strict trial. Not "whitewashed." Nothing in the examination was found against him. His counsel said, "the Court is unanimous on the statement of facts; also upon all matters affecting Gen. Howard's character as an officer and a gentleman; also in commending his conduct as a politician. The statement as to the contrary are false."

By the bill that passed the House on Tuesday, abolishing protective American merchants have secured a substantial victory. The House has shown itself to be sensitive to the influence of public opinion, but there are so many ways by which the Senate may kill the bill that it will need persistent effort and careful watching to get it through. As it has passed it destroys the money system, provides for the forfeiture of only the items under which on an invoice, and makes it impossible for a custom house runner to carry off a merchant's books and papers. The action of Congress, so far as it has gone in this matter, is good, though not all that was hoped for.—Phila. Ledger.

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THE GEORGI PIANO FORTES. LATE NEWS REGARDING THEM.

The Georgi Piano-Fortes have taken the first premium over all competitors at the State Fair of West Virginia, in Kentucky, and at all other fairs and expositions where they have been exhibited.

Their durable build and refined expression of tone, and the favorite instrument in seminaries of learning.

From Rev. L. VAN BOKKELEN, Rector of J. C. G. Seminary, My. Mounts, N. Y., August 14th, 1873.

"I have pianos of other celebrated makers in the Seminary, but the Georgi is selected and used at the concert as the best. It is preferred by the teachers and pupils."

From Rev. WM. F. MORRISON, Rector of St. Luke's Church, New York.

"On leaving Iowa, I was reluctantly obliged to leave with me a Georgi Piano. When I settled in Buffalo, one of my first cares was to provide myself with a new one. I found the Georgi. It fully sustains the high reputation the Georgi instruments have in every part of the country."

Mr. JOHN ZUNDEL, Organizer of Henry W. 13, says:

"The Georgi has an exquisite action, and everything about it is thorough workmanship and indicates durability."

Rev. S. H. McCOLLESTER, President of Buffalo College, says:

"We have been using two of your instruments the past year, and they have given great satisfaction. We regard them as the best instruments we have."

From the New York Independent:

"As they were highly recommended to us, we bought them for our own use, and we find that they are worthy of all the praise they have received."

The above are only a few selections from letters of commendation which prove
The Georgi to be the Leading Piano of the day.
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